



H. B. PARKS, D. D.
General Secretary Missionary Department A. M.
E. Church, shown at the Bible House, New York City.

VOICE OF MISSIONS

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Bishop, Presiding Elders, Pastors of Churches and their wives are agents and no other without a certificate from this office.

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H. M. TURNER, Editor and Publisher.

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LETTER FROM OUR CUBAN MISSIONARY

REV. LUCAS PONCE, MISSIONARY GENERAL,
Rev. Dr. A. E. CARSON, EX CUBA,
Silos 17 Habana.

Rev. BISHOP H. M. TURNER, D.C.L. Atlanta.

Most Rev. Father!—Without any answer from you, I have only to say everybody in this country are simply awaiting the confirmation of the General Conference when everything promised would have been complied with, yet nobody could have made such a definite promise until the General Conference enacted the appropriation, and the church in South Africa had never seen a General Conference since its connection with the A. M. E. Church, for the delegation arrived here after the last General Conference, and no General Conference has assembled since and will not meet before the first Monday in May, 1900. Vicar Bishop Dwane had age and experience enough to know that any reputable church had to be governed by law, and no laws could be enacted for our work in South Africa until the great law making body could assemble. We had done all we could legally in South Africa had never seen a General Conference could assemble and take further action; and when they say that he has written so many times for me and my congregation to have one soon, how to do this we must have a constant Mission. And I guarantee you that the progress we will make in a short time surely will astonish you.

On the other hand I get many letters from friends of the different towns outside of Havana, where they ask me to make them a visit, but I cannot do anything on account of the scarcity of money, and by-the-way, I have to give up at present the visit to preach the Gospel to them. At present I have to officiate in a family home, and you know the many difficulties in this manner to fit into their minds, awaking them to the true religion of Christ, they flock to hear the good news and believe in them. One of the many ways the Roman Catholic Church has used to exploit this people has been by keeping them in ignorance of any other denomination who will give them schools. The Episcopalian, the Baptists, the Congregationalists and the Presbyterians have been the ones here, but as they have these schools, I have asked my congregation to have one very soon, how to do this we must have a constant Mission. And I guarantee you that the progress we will make in a short time surely will astonish you.

Yours fraternally in Jesus Church,
Rev. Lucas Ponce,
Havana, Cuba, Silos street, 147.
November 17th, 1899.

The above letter our readers will notice is from the Rev. Lucas Ponce, whom we appointed a Missionary to Havana, of our own volition a few months ago, and did not allow him a penny for traveling expenses, nor aid him to live after his arrival there, but he had the spirit of Missions, and notwithstanding not a cent was allowed and a family on his hands, he had made his way to Havana, and the above letter tells what he is doing. He turned about, made one hand wash the other, solicited funds from any source, and, as will be seen, made his way to Cuba, and is in demand there now.

He speaks the Spanish language quite well, and a previous letter which we received at our office some weeks ago, assures us that the A. M. E. Church is wanted in every direction. We have had twenty applications by young, single ministers for work in Cuba, but, in every instance, they want travelling expenses and big salary, which the Missionary department cannot afford at this time, owing to the fact of the downright robbery which has been perpetrated upon it by more than one, yes, more than two. Indeed, we have never, up to the present, informed Dr. Parks, our Secretary of Missions, of this appointment, as we know he has no money to allow Rev. Ponce, and we shall do so at once, and we hope other ministers and friends will write and send him a little help after reading this letter.

But, to our gratification in great pleasure, a young man of Athens, Ga., walked into our office today (November 22nd). We mean Rev. D. J. Fleming, whom we ordained an elder about a week ago, and also requested an appointment to Cuba, where he intends to go and work for God and the church, in the face of the fact that we can offer him nothing to travel or live upon at the present time, but God will provide means and help, and that right early. We only trust that young Elder Fleming will have the grit and incisiveness to do good and build up the church, that Rev. Ponce has exhibited. Our young men, who will naturally aspire to be Doctors, General Officers, Professors, Elders, Superintendents and Bishops, are wise when they make such sacrifices for God and his church in the days of their youth. H. M. T., Editor.

The first anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Holmes on Thursday evening, Sept. 28th, 1899, was one of the most delightful occasions of the year. The Rt. Rev. H. M. Turner being the guest of honor. Among others, were present Dr. and Mrs. Bradwell, Mrs. H. Ware, E. Steele, Misses Charlotte J. Upshaw, Alberta, McAlpin and Alice B. Bradwell, Sallie Jimmerson and Mr. Will Lamar. The dinner party was highly enjoyed by all, at their beautiful residence, 209 West Mitchell street.

The above is the name of a paper which has just been launched upon the sea of public sentiment and opinion, by Mrs. E. V. C. Williams, the principal of the Normal and Industrial College, located at Abbeville, S. C., and wife of Rev. E. W. Williams. Mrs. Williams is highly cultured, having enjoyed the opportunities of acquiring a first-class education, and is blessed with a large head, a brain of tremendous proportions and a rare devotion not surpassed by any member of our race variety in the country. We most cheerfully welcome The Ethiopian and ask for its sufficient patronage to make it a powerful race paper.

TO OUR READERS.

We have just returned home from presiding over four heavy Annual Conferences, and are sick and not able to prepare editorials for THE VOICE OF MISSIONS, so our readers must excuse the paper for this issue. We hope to better in a few days, but the paper cannot wait for our recovery; we must go to press at once. We have endeavored to write a number of editorials, but find we cannot in our present condition, with an aching head and a brain fettered by heavy cold and in a state of general exhaustion.

H. M. TURNER.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REVOLT.

VICAR BISHOP DWANE DE- SERTS THE A. M. E. CHURCH.

The letter found in another column from the pen of Mr. Francis Gow, one of the greatest men of our race in South Africa, will be read with astonishment and interest. We have read and demanded at the session of Brother Dwane. While we knew before he left that he was smarting under what he regarded an insult, both to himself and his people in South Africa, and yet in the face of the enthusiastic reception he received from all the Bishops save one and a dozen Annual Conferences, consisting of two and three hundred ministers, in their different conference sessions, we cannot understand how a man, with hands lifted to heaven and then placed upon the Holy Bible, with all the responsive pledges to our ordination vows, which Brother Dwane made, could have allowed his disgust to so far overbalance the demonstrative reception that was tendered him, while in this country. Everywhere Dwane went in this country the people rose by thousands to their feet to rejoice over him, and for the two thousand pounds which he says was promised and failed to be forthcoming, we have only to say everybody in this country are simply awaiting the confirmation of the General Conference when everything promised would have been complied with, yet nobody could have made such a definite promise until the General Conference enacted the appropriation, and the church in South Africa had never seen a General Conference since its connection with the A. M. E. Church, for the delegation arrived here after the last General Conference, and no General Conference has assembled since and will not meet before the first Monday in May, 1900. Vicar Bishop Dwane had age and experience enough to know that any reputable church had to be governed by law, and no laws could be enacted for our work in South Africa until the great law making body could assemble. We had done all we could legally in South Africa had never seen a General Conference could assemble and take further action; and when they say that he has written so many times for me and my congregation to have one very soon, how to do this we must have a constant Mission. And I guarantee you that the progress we will make in a short time surely will astonish you.

Yours fraternally in Jesus Church,
Rev. Lucas Ponce,

Havana, Cuba, Silos street, 147.

November 17th, 1899.

THE TEN-MILE PETITION TO CONGRESS FOR SHAWANO.

A petition to the United States Congress, asking for a hundred million dollars to aid those in leaving the country who have any brains or manhood, is now being signed up. Our object is to have enough to sign different sheets of paper, so that when they are pasted together the scroll will be ten miles long.

The convention in Birmingham, Ala., August the 2d, elected us President of the movement, but neglected to provide a secretary, but afterwards directed us to appoint one. Rev. J. S. Flipper, D. D., cheerfully accepts the position of Secretary, and as he is a man of business methods and punctual always to a fault. Therefore, in all sections of the country, persons who may still own sheets of paper with a list of names will mail them to Rev. J. S. Flipper, D. D., Atlanta, Ga. Street and number not being necessary, as he is well known. Let all who favor the movement simply sign their names on sheets of foolscap paper, by writing their names and residence on every line, and when the paper is filled out, leaving a margin at the top to paste other papers to, forward the same as directed above.

H. M. TURNER.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH TROUBLES.

About a week ago, we received a letter from Deaconess Gow, signed by J. S. P. E. Parks, Superintendent, Katoe, P. E.; Annanup, D. E. and W. S. Mashinasho, Elder, informing us of the revolt in South Africa, led by Vicar Bishop Dwane and Rev. M. M. Mokone, but believing that it was impossible for such an occurrence to take place and that some mistake was in the matter, we kept it secret, and only whispered it to Dr. Parks, when he paid a short visit to our Macon, Ga., Annual Conference. We resolved to wait for more tidings, grand and truthful as the ministers who are writing us, and have kept the letter in great suspense till this morning, November 24th. While lying upon our bed sick the startling episode of Mr. Francis Gow was brought to us by one of his secretaries. Any more secrecy would be a crime, for the testimony is of sufficient magnitude to divulge the whole affair to the church. We have tried our utmost to chafe and grieve over our loss, but cannot. We cannot feel sorry. If Brother Dwane is weak in health, to allow him to be the leader of his race on earth, better that he go not than after the General Conference took action; better that Brother Mokone go now than after the promotion that some of us had in contemplation. If these brethren are not willing to stay in the church and settle our own wrangles, better that they go. All of them have thrown away more than they will ever get from any other church on earth. Our house stands open for any of them to come and eat and sleep, and we will treat them as gentlemen, but our church, thank God, is too large, and it is wanted in many places to grieve over this little episode. When we are in better condition, physically, we will say more. Nothing would delight us so much as being able to leave for South Africa at once. But we must finish up our Annual Conferences now in operation and we could not start before January, and then be back by the first of May would leave us to time to do anything in South Africa. We may, however, send a minister to South Africa at any early date, or we may allow the whole thing to stand until after the General Conference. But if God permits me to go, next summer, we shall correct all misrepresentations, however large or however small. The complaint alleged by Rev. M. M. Mokone about the two hundred pounds will be investigated, as soon as we can see Dr. Shaffer, next week. But suppose it was promised by some individual, or even by ourself, it took the General Conference, or the Executive Board, which meets annually, to make such a promise legal.

WHAT CONVICTS CAN DO.

We have been laughed at and considerably ridiculed, because we have said, "Empty the jails and penitentiaries of the United States and give us the convicts to work for the benefit of the nation." We shall not call for any judgment upon him or for any slight or misfortune upon the course he has resolved to pursue. We hope he will do good in whatever character he may appear as an ecclesiastic; but we think he will regret his step about as soon as the A. M. E. Church seriously feels his loss.

We are equally surprised that Rev. M. M. Mokone should join the revolting crusade, for we had intended to recommend him to Dr. Shaffer, next week, to the General Conference, or the Executive Board, which meets annually, to make such a promise legal.

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OFF FOR AFRICA.

Rev. C. J. Bynum, one of the Elders of the North Georgia Conference, is preparing to leave for Liberia in December or by the first of the year. We are sorry to say we cannot just define the time of his departure. At all events we have given him an appointment which will give him work to do in the interest of our church, upon his immediate arrival in Africa. He expects five or six hundred to accompany him in the great and noble step that he is taking.

THE ETHIOPIAN.

The above is the name of a paper which has just been launched upon the sea of public sentiment and opinion, by Mrs. E. V. C. Williams, the principal of the Normal and Industrial College, located at Abbeville, S. C., and wife of Rev. E. W. Williams. Mrs. Williams is highly cultured, having enjoyed the opportunities of acquiring a first-class education, and is blessed with a large head, a brain of tremendous proportions and a rare devotion not surpassed by any member of our race variety in the country. We most cheerfully welcome The Ethiopian and ask for its sufficient patronage to make it a powerful race paper.

Editor of THE VOICE OF MISSIONS.

We trust that no reader will put an end to this inspiring and courageous subject of this issue. We are aware that we are incapable of such, and even if our store of information were boundless, language would fail us when we attempted to paint the picture as it really is, in my mind, of this exceptional man. These lines are simply a feeble expression in estimation of Rev. Hampton as we see him in his unassuming sphere.

MATTHEW W. H. ROSS,
Hot Springs, Ark.

NORTHERN OSTRACISM AS TOLD BY
NORTHERN MAN.

Editor of THE VOICE OF MISSIONS.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of Rev. Dr. F. G. Snelson Presiding Elder and General Superintendent of Sierra Leone and West African Missions.

AN INTERESTING SUMMARY

Report Made at The Ninth Session of The Sierra Leone Annual Conference.

To The Bishop and Conference: It gives me joy to be able to read my second annual report as Presiding Elder and General Superintendent of our Sierra Leone Missions.

A welcome glad welcome, three welcome to those;

Welcome to our many land, dear Bishop, o'er the sea.

Then welcome we greet in A. M. E. gies.

And pray that the coming may bless Sierra Leone and thee.

It is my joy to live for the good that I can do; so I went forth last year to the trusty committees committed to my trust, conscious of the fact that success could only be achieved by entire consecration, indomitable faith, and prayerful diligence. My once feeble faith has been largely rewarded, the noble principles of African Methodism triumph gloriously, and I feel stronger in the Lord and in the power of His might. Here are my sheaves, garnered in tears, sacrifice and privation; yet not unto us, but unto Thee, O Lord, be all the praise and glory.

PROVIDENCE STATION.

This Mission was opened in 1891, and has been in charge of the Rev. George Dove Decker ever since its organization. During my first year this was our chief camping ground because of the loyalty of its members. The Hotel Oberlin has been added to the work. The general day school has been most successfully conducted, and considerable denominational enthusiasm thereby awakened. The spiritual, financial and connectional interests of the church have been well preserved. The membership has increased in the last three years. The Sabbath schools have done good work with a good quota of officers and teachers, a new organ, sleek and communion set have been added. The Woman's Christian Endeavor Society has done a commendable work. The Pastor has preached a powerful gospel. The deacons have been few. The Central Fund Board of the Sierra Leone Conference has paid the last cent on the old building and Providence is free from debt. The young people are very promising and much exists to inspire our confidence for the future.

NOW ELION STATION.

The labors of Rev. H. M. Steady, the Pastor, and an enthusiastic membership have borne ample fruit, numerically, financially and spiritually. The struggle has been hard and long. The membership last conference was 26. It has increased three-fold this year. Despite heat, ridicule and persecutions the work has gone forward in the fear of God and Captain Jesus has been pleased to demonstrate again that he has never lost a battle. The officiaiy is well organized, the Sabbath school excellent, the day school demands a school house for its now crowded accommodation. The two women's associations are doing well and the church attendance is from 150 to over 1000 persons. A new organ and clock have been added, new chairs and Bankings, etc., etc. Our own A. M. E. hymn books are used as well as our Sabbath school literature. Great has been the success of this station, Pastor and people. The debts remaining are being rapidly cancelled and unselfishness seems to be the giant grace which has borne her legitimate fruit.

CAMPBELL MISSION.

This mission has been recently purchased from Rev. L. G. Davis for \$100, a part of which was paid in cash and the balance by acts of semi-annual installments. The work has all along fluctuated in success and failure for many inexplicable reasons. Souls have been converted and baptized, but finally leave and give no aid to the work. The Pastor has done as well as could be expected under the circumstances, with interests divided or at least conflicting. We have experienced however, some delightful services here and visited it regularly. It has been repainted and at a sacrifice to the Pastor. We cherish however, great hopes for the future of Campbell Mission.

MANUAL MISSION.

This new Mission is the latest babe added to our family, but she is a lusty daughter of the conference, growing in health and beauty and strength every day. It was opened October 26th, 1898, and some souls have been converted and arose praising God. The property is a lot purchased by the hands of our Central Finance Board and the Mission house painted. Brothers and Sister J. H. W. Gooding were in charge at its opening, and Brother and Sister Mayne recommended it to their conference. New Zion's pastor and people have taken this Mission into its circuit and given aid in innumerable ways. Some books have been supplied, a new bell added, a good day school of 37 pupils in operation, and indeed this work is most promising. We need funds for a church building here and I trust that the new year will witness its completion. These four Missions—Providence, New Zion, Campbell Mission, and Emanuel are located in the four wings of Freetown, and so the campfires of African Methodism are burning all through this city, and scores are rushing to the marvelous light so grandly gleaming from the sea to the NEW ZION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

This nursery of knowledge was opened April 4th, 1898, under the manager, the now Rev. J. F. Gerber, the headmaster, who has done a noble work and has achieved no little success. He began with four pupils and has now nearly one hundred. By judicious arrangement the monthly fees have been largely collected. A bell and a school clock have been supplied. The children are given the best possible instruction, also in serving under the beautiful care of Miss Julianne Carroll. The holiday prize examinations in December were conducted by the General Superintendent and the Pastor, and showed skillful instruction, brilliant accomplishments and magnificent promise. The children are gen-

erally tidy and are well drilled in our own A. M. E. Catechism and principles. We must teach our sons and daughters to love the deeds of race and pride of country. Rev. J. F. Gerber merits our commendation.

ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

In the case of Brother J. H. W. Gooding, this church has done encouraging work this year. Although absent from the station six months of the year on account of the war, the church work was kept in touch by the faithful MTSB exhorters. Too much credit cannot be accorded Brothers May, Rocky, Davis and Benkah school convention for all the Conference was convened for the second time, and resulted in appointing a general Sabbath school Missionary in the person of Bro. L. Augustus Johnson, who has pressed his work forward with zeal and great perseverance. Along these lines none have been slothful, but each has apparently done the best he could. The outlook for another year is bright along all these general lines.

OUR FINANCIAL REPORTS.

The brethren and people pushed the class pence forward so that it is no insignificant item. Providence has paid its Pastor.....\$31 10s 0d New Zion has paid its Pastor.....25 4 7s Campbell has paid its Pastor.....3 0 0 Emanuel has paid its Pastor.....4 15 0s Allen has paid its Pastor.....1 16 0 Belieb has paid its Pastor.....4 15 0 New Zion School for teacher.....10 7 2 Columbia has paid its Pastor.....3 0 0 Sendjoro has paid its Pastor.....3 9 8 Instead of the dollar money system an annual subscription for the promotion of the conference, which was easier to be understood by all the people—was promulgated which resulted as follows:

(1) October 1, 1898.....\$30 1s 8d (2) November 15, 1898.....\$1 11 2 (3) January 18, 1899.....25 1 8 Total.....\$66 14s 1d

About \$315, which is about 29 cents to the Sierra Leone members. We are sure that this exceeds what would have been collected through the less known dollar money system, and we urge Your Grace to make allowance for the absence of the disciplinary dollar, and we pledge ourselves to institute it another year. The lack of the dollar money is not a lack of financial effort, for the conference is gradually and greatly increasing in size and in African Methodism. The Parent Mite Missionary Society, Mrs. Mary G. Campbell, president, Mrs. Mary A. Campbell, treasurer, sent for the Missionaries as follows:

(1) In April.....\$56 11s 5d (2) in August.....56 9 4 (3) in October.....56 12 10 (4) In May from Dr. Parks 71 0 0 Total (about \$1,200).....\$240 13s 10d

This has been received since the last conference, March, 1898, to February, 1899. But the Northern have not divided all the funds among themselves, but have bought a partial supply of church service books, paid some on the purchase of Campbell Mission House, out of their funds of Providence, a lot on New Zion church, purchased a lot for Emanuel Mission, and for repairs on the Mission House as rent; advanced \$10 (ten pounds) sterling on Bethel new church, provided some household supplies for our Sierra Leone general office, etc., etc. I have paid Rev. Dr. Bayle Roads in September, 1898, £6 (six pounds) on his claim At Bethel church, and in February, 1899, again another £6 (six pounds). It is with sincerest gratitude to Almighty God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, that we record the receipt of £11 more for the repair of the Sarah Gorham Mission House at Magbelle from the Parent Mite Missionary Society, and for New Zion church, Padema Road, £11 more on its building account from the Church Extension Society through the Rt. Rev. Abraham Grant, D. D., the presiding Bishop of this conference. Our general day celebrations during the year have yielded £39 12s and our District Conference over £19. Considerable has been raised for school supplies also at different stations. The Friends have liberally given chairs, carpets, rugs, Sankey's commandments, Bibles, Testaments and Psalms, etc. Last conference roll showed that our total membership was 755, including probationers; 70 men and 104 probationers, total 174, have been the increase to the church in Sierra Leone during the year, so that our normal enrollment should now be 929 persons. To reach these Missions is expensive, and hard travel, but although we have had to go to port many a mile, we have borne the toll of God's grace, fully trusting that who does shall leave home or bridle, or sister or father or mother or wife or children or lands for My sake and the Gospel's, shall receive an hundredfold now in this time and in the world to come life everlasting.

OPEN DOORS.

The principles of Christian manhood

if planted so deeply in the A. M. E. Church, are spreading themselves far and wide. The people are calling for Allen's sacred legacy at Bathurst, Gambia, Cape Coast, Lagos, etc., as well as in several towns in this colony. I have prophetic faith that we shall be financially and spiritually able to answer calls by and bye. We need an industrial college and trust we shall be able to realize for the future. The Christian Endeavor Associations are assisting considerably toward entering upon this blessed work.

We have distributed literature, clothing and as much good cheer and encouragement to the sick and to the poor. We record with gratitude the fact that we have collected from friends the following amounts to assist in paying the transportation of our Missionary students, Arthur George Decker and L. Augustus John:

From Sir Frederick Cardew, the governor.....£ 5 0s 0d

From Hon. Councillor, A. S. Hebron, B. L.2 2 0

From His Worship Hon. Mr. Samuel Lewis, K. C. M. S.2 2 0

From Councilor C. E. Wright, Deputy Mayor....2 0 0

From Mr. Babington Johnson, Esq.2 2 0

From T. Hamilton Leigh, Esq. J. P.2 0 0

From Dr. W. B. Davis, retired surgeon....1 1 0

From two friends.....1 1 0

Total.....£16 17s 0d

Our labors have been incessant, but we have done the best we could under all circumstances. So that there is nothing to blemish the lustre of my shoulder straps, but they are brighter by far for the future service of my Lord, of my church and of my race.

F. G. Snelson.

Our Leona Missions have

found these days of wonderful help and inspiration to every feature of our church work. The recitations by the

young people in keeping with the re-

spective observances of "Alien Day," "Easter Day," "Children's Day" and "Endowment Day," have taught the principles of African Methodism to our people as nothing else can. These public exercises have proved to be great rallying occasions. The people have turned out by the hundreds and contributed liberally. The second anniversary of the District Conference was well attended by the ministers and officers and a Sabbath school convention for all the Conference was convened for the second time, and resulted in appointing a general Sabbath school Missionary in the person of Bro. L. Augustus Johnson, who has pressed his work forward with zeal and great perseverance. Along these lines none have been slothful, but each has apparently done the best he could. The outlook for another year is bright along all these general lines.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

TO THE NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

By Dr. S. S. Washington, a Practicing Physician of Birmingham, Ala. Bishop H. M. Turner, Presiding.

MOST REVEREND BISHOP, MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I have been asked to extend to this conference a welcome on behalf of the citizens of Birmingham. There is nothing that could afford me greater pleasure, and I wish to assure our visiting friends that notwithstanding the bad name Birmingham sometimes receives, there is no community that places higher value on life dedicated to the uplifting of humanity, lives dedicated to the inciting of wisdom and virtue, and the Christian attributes of hope, of faith and of charity.

The value of a good life is without question, for the emanating influences multiply in more than geometric ratios through the unending series of time. How much greater then, is the value of that life that is not only good, but that is dedicated to the effort to remove the dregs and the weakness from our poor human natures, and to plant those conceptions of life that make for a strong and vigorous and Christian manhood and womanhood? My friends, I say that Birmingham places the fullest value on such a life, and believing that the life of each member of this conference is so dedicated, she extends to you, to all of you, to each and every one of you a most warm and cordial welcome. You are welcome not only by St. John and his most excellent and worthy Pastor, but by all churches and denominations, by all colors and creeds, by rich and poor, by individuals and corporations. Our bank and drug stores, our mining and insurance companies, our business houses and professional men will be glad to see and serve you. And coming in the name of the lowly Nazarene at you do, all our homes are open to you, and our women ready when you call to shelter the widow's mite.

The people of our church are doing what they can to support the Gospel. We have had a great many deaths in our church, which has weakened us greatly, and we are having a good deal of sickness now among the few that are left. Some are very old and very sickly. They are not able to give anything; they need help themselves.

The members of Capemount told the conference in writing that they were too few and poor to take care of a Pastor, and if the conference was going to send them a Pastor and support him, they would be very glad, and they would try to do all they could to help, because they desire to send a Rev. A. L. Brisbane back again. The good friends are very kind to me in Capemount. Birmingham, our church, has made a great contribution to the welfare of life in Alabama. Our preachers suffer no less.

They say all they can about us evil, but the little church is still on its march, weathering every storm, and all of us have our battles at hand and we do intend to push the battle to the gate by the grace of God. I mean those whole-hearted men that love the church that are willing to suffer and are suffering. We have some cowards and some money-seekers and some drones, but we expect to stigmatize them to death this coming Annual Conference. We have too many men in our conference for the money that is sent here. Some are not doing anything. They are only causing those who are doing the work, and are acceptable to the people, to suffer. They make a failure everywhere they go, and they are only in the way for the money.

Our church is asked for at Sino and Cape Palmas, but our Presiding Elder has not visited any of these points as yet for the want of means to travel with.

Rev. Lawton says he expects to return home next year. We are very sorry. Elder Lawton is a good man and is very social. Everybody likes him, all the preachers love him, because he came here and fell in our hearts. The citizens of Monrovia don't want him to go. I hope he will stay with us longer. Bishop, we are truly sorry for you getting called to travel to Africa. We would like to have you come over with us, but if we send you back to the United States, we will find the United Conference is doing a great service to Africa.

The value, the inestimable value of the constructive and moulding power of the A. M. E. Church as it relates to our racial existence in this country is not only conceded by the student of history, but is recognized by every man of average intelligence.

This church, with its complete and well regulated institutions, stands out pre-eminently as an example and object lesson of Negro organization.

This church, in the dark days of civil war, in the trying and uncertain period of reconstruction planted and spread its banners all through the southland, carrying hope to the bondman, stamping the brute purpose to be free, removing lawlessness, and violence, teaching soldiery, race, unity, of purpose, and charity to all men. In every phase of our development, from the semi-slavery of slavery, to a position of enlightened citizenship and commanding influence for large numbers of the race, the leaders of this church have been among the vanguard in the noble strife to rise and the service of school and state as well as church, more than any has cared for himself a niche in the American wall.

We point with pride to the pure and learned Faye, who is a legacy, not only in historic lore and genealogy, but in the monument of Wilberforce; to the eloquent C. A. M. E. church, which has carried for himself a niche in the American wall.

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